

# Spiritual Beings

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## Starting Points

- **The Bible doesn't try to "explain" Spiritual Beings.**
- **We have to be Detectives. Much of what we know about Spiritual Beings is through inference.**

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- **Much of our understanding of Spiritual Beings is influenced by culture.**
- **We must get to a point of being Comfortable With Ambiguity and willing to say “I Don’t Know.” In many things the ending point is “What’s the harm in that?”**

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**To Ponder...**

**When you think about angels, what do you think about?**

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# Angels



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## Angels are Quite Common in the Old Testament

- Angels Rescue Hagar
- Announce the birth of Isaac
- Announce the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah
- Prevent the slaying of Isaac
- Guard Jacob
- Commission Moses
- Arrange the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah
- Gave the law
- Rebuke Balaam
- Rebuke the Israelites
- Commission Gideon

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- **Smite Israel with pestilence**
- **Rescue Elijah**
- **Surround Elisha**
- **Save Daniel from lions**
- **Smite the Assyrian army**
- **Camp around God's people**
- **Helped write Zechariah**

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## **Angels are Quite Common in the New Testament**

- **Announce the birth of Christ**
- **Reveal John's name**
- **Tell of Jesus' birth**
- **Direct Jesus' flight to Egypt**
- **Minister to Jesus**
- **Strike Herod dead**
- **Stand by Paul in a storm**
- **Roll away Jesus' tombstone**
- **Announce Jesus' resurrection**
- **Attend Jesus' ascension**
- **Rescue imprisoned apostles**
- **Direct Philip to preach**
- **Direct Cornelius to send for Peter**

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## Jesus Says Some Interesting Things About Angels

### Jesus Will Confess His Followers Before Angels

*“I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. (Luke 12:8)*

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### Angels will separate the wicked from the Righteous

*“Once again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. <sup>48</sup> When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. <sup>49</sup> This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. (Matthew 13:47-50)*

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# What is the Nature of Angels?

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## What is an Angel?

The Hebrew word *malak* and the Greek word *angellos* both mean “messenger.”

Throughout the Bible, Angels are simply “doing things on behalf of God.”

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## Angels Were Created by God

*<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD. Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights above. <sup>2</sup> Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his heavenly hosts. <sup>3</sup> Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars. <sup>4</sup> Praise him, you highest heavens and you waters above the skies. <sup>5</sup> Let them praise the name of the LORD, for at his command they were created, (Psalm 148:1-5)*

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## Angels are Higher Than Humans...

*“What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? <sup>7</sup> You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor <sup>8</sup> and put everything under their feet.” (Hebrews 12:7, quoting Psalm 8:4-6)*

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## ... But Angels are Not to be Worshiped

*<sup>9</sup> Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God." <sup>10</sup> At this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus." (Revelation 19:9-10)*

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## Angels Don't Have Physical Bodies

*<sup>40</sup> There are also heavenly bodies and there are earthly bodies; but the splendor of the heavenly bodies is one kind, and the splendor of the earthly bodies is another. <sup>41</sup> The sun has one kind of splendor, the moon another and the stars another; and star differs from star in splendor. (1 Corinthians 15:40-41)*

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## Angels are Not Female



The ones specifically mentioned in the Bible have unmistakable male names...

*<sup>30</sup> At the resurrection people will neither marry nor be given in marriage; they will be like the angels in heaven. (Matthew 22:30)*

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## Angels Might Have Wings...

*<sup>20</sup> While I was speaking and praying, confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel and making my request to the LORD my God for his holy hill— <sup>21</sup> while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice. (Daniel 9:20-21)*

*Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth—to every nation, tribe, language and people. (Revelation 14:6)*

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## **...But When They Appear They Usually Do So in Human Form (Without Wings)**

*On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. <sup>2</sup> They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, <sup>3</sup> but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. <sup>4</sup> While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. (Luke 24:1-5)*

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## **Angels Might Sing a Lot...**

*<sup>8</sup> "Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it?<sup>9</sup> And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' <sup>10</sup> In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents." (Luke 15:8-10)*

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## ...But There is No Biblical Evidence That Angels Play Harps



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## There are Many, Many Angels (More Than 10,000...)

*<sup>22</sup> But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly (Hebrews 12:22)*

*<sup>53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? (Matthew 26:53)*

*(By the way, a Legion was 5,000 men thus  $12 \times 5,000 = 60,000$ )*

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